

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 MMO-04
EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DLOS-09 TRSE-00 INT-05 OMB-01 /084 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS: D WEIDNER:YF
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STATE-EUR/WE: J CUNNINGHAM
STATE-ARA/AND/V: W SERGEANT
STATE-ARA/MEX: K MCCURRE

-----108077 142145Z /62

P R 142120Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS STATE 065284

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, VE, SP, MX

SUBJECT:SPANISH-VENEZUELAN FISHERY RELATIONS

REF: (A) CARACAS 2064, MARCH 3, 1978; (B) CARACAS A-144,
OCTOBER 5, 1977; (C) MEXICO 21415, DECEMBER 28, 1977

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA,
COMMERCE BELIEVES THAT THE VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR FISHING
RIGHTS IN THE U.S. ZONE (REF A) MAY BE RELATED TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSIVE FISHERIES COOPERATION BETWEEN
SPAIN AND VENEZUELA WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED BY THE
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U.S. PRESS: (NMFS WILL POUCH ADDRESSEE POSTS COPIES OF
AVAILABLE PRESS REPORTS). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT VENEZUELA
MAY BE CONSIDERING THE USE OF SPANISH VESSELS, OPERATED
BY SPANISH-VENEZUELAN JOINT VENTURES UNDER THE VENEZUELAN
FLAG, TO FISH IN THE U.S. ZONE.

2. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. MADRID ONLY.

1) IMPACT OF THE EXTENSION OF FISHERY ZONES BY COASTAL COUNTRIES ON THE SPANISH FLEET. NMFS IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE NUMBER, CARRYING CAPACITY, AND TYPE OF

VESSELS CURRENTLY TIED UP IN PORTS AS A RESULT OF EXTENDED JURISDICTIONS. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WOULD BE TUNA SEINERS AND SQUID TRAWLERS. (VENEZUELA HAS INDICATED AN INTEREST IN FISHING SQUID OFF THE U.S. COAST AND MAY ENTER THE EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA FISHERY).

2) COPY OF SPANISH LAW REGULATING JOINT VENTURES.

3) AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN DIARIO LAS AMERICAS (MIAMI) ON FEBRUARY 16, 1978 INDICATED THAT SPAIN HAD RECENTLY CHANGED ITS INVESTMENT LAWS TO ALLOW JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES TO OPERATE SPANISH VESSELS UNDER A THIRD COUNTRY'S FLAG. DETAILS ON THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4) DETAILS ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF SPANISH JOINT VENTURES IN LATIN AMERICA, ESPECIALLY IN VENEZUELA AND MEXICO. NAMES OF COMPANIES, INVESTMENTS, PLANNED ACTIVITIES, ETC. WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST.
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B. FOR CARACAS ONLY.

1) DETAILS ON CURRENT STATUS OF VENEZUELAN-SPANISH JOINT VENTURES.

2) PLANS TO USE SPANISH VESSELS TO OPERATE OFF THE U.S. COAST OR IN COMPETITION WITH THE U.S. TUNA FLEET IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC.

3) NMFS HAS REVIEWED THE ANNUAL CERP-404 REPORT (REF B), BUT FINDS NO MENTION OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

C. FOR MEXICO ONLY.

1) DETAILS ON PRESENT STATUS OF MEXICAN-SPANISH JOINT VENTURES.

2) WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MEXICAN JOINT VENTURE LAW. NMFS HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW WERE BEING MODIFIED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN CAPITAL.

3) NMFS APPRECIATES REGIONAL FISHERY ATTACHE'S ALERT
REPORTING ON MEXICAN JOINT VENTURES (REF C) AND WOULD
APPRECIATE RFA GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT
IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT (CERP 404) ON THE MEXICAN
FISHING INDUSTRY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING RIGHTS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE065284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D WEIDNER:YF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780113-1208
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780369/aaaacgqd.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc066ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CARACAS 2064, 78 CARACAS A-144
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3333219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH-VENEZUELAN FISHERY RELATIONS
TAGS: EFIS, VE, SP, MX, US
To: MADRID CARACAS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc066ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014